

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

OMB-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 NEA-10 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-20 SAJ-01

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O P 261450Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO COMIDEASTFOR IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4559 IMMEDIATE

USS CHARLES F ADAMS IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

CNO WASHDC PRIORITY

CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 8067

FOR RADM HANKS FROM CHARGE'

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCLR, KE

SUBJECT: PROPOSED DECEMBER 10-17 MOMBASA VISIT BY USS ADAMS

REF: (A) NAIROBI 7788 (NOTAL)

(C) COMIDEASTFOR 211620Z NOV 73 (NOTAL

(C) NAIROBI 8026 (NOTAL)

(D) COMIDEASTFOR 180845Z NOV 73

1. YOUR MESSAGE (RSF D) RECOMMENDING HIGH VISIBILITY
MOMBASA PORT CALL ON OCCASION OF KENYAN TENTH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATIONS BELATEDLY RECEIVED TODAY. WHILE WE WOULD
BOTH AGREE THAT IT IS VERY MUCH IN US NATIONAL INTEREST
TO KEEP MOMBASA REGULARLY OPEN TO CALLS BY US NAVY
VESSLES, I CANNOT AGREE THAT VISIT DURING ANNIVERSARY
HOLIDAYS -- AND CERTAINLY NOT HIGH VISIBILITY VISIT
SUCH AS YOUR PROPOSE -- WOULD BE SUPPORTIVE OF THIS
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INTEREST. IN FACT, ATTEMPTING SUCH A VISIT AT TIME

WHICH IS POLITICALLY SENSITIVE FOR KENYANS COULD STRENGTHEN HAND OF THOSE WITH GOK WHO ARE NOT FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO U.S. NAVAL PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN.

2. IN ATTEMPTING TO PREDICT KENYAN REACTIONS TO U.S. MOVES, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO BEAR IN MIND THAT KENYA OFFICIALLY PURSUES A POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT BETWEEN THE SUPER POWERS, PARTICULARLY INSOFAR AS MILITARY MATTERS ARE CONCERNED. KENYA AT PRESENT OBTAINS ARMS FROM NEITHER THE U.S. NOR THE U.S.S.R.: NEITHER COUNTRY MAINTAINS DEFENSE ATTACHES IN NAIROBI. ALTHOUGH MANY KENYAN OFFICIALS PRIVATELY MAKE CLEAR THEIR FRIENDSHIP FOR U.S. AND THEIR DISTASTE FOR SOVIETS (E.G., MLAMBA'S STATEMENT TO YOU ON DESIRABILITY U.S. NAVAL PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN), THERE ARE OTHER POINTS OF VIEW WITHIN GOK. WE SHOULD, THEREFORE, AVOID EMBARRASSING OUR FRIENDS BY ACTIONS WHICH PUBLICLY UNDERCUT KENYA'S OFFICIAL NON-ALIGNED POSTURE. MOREOVER, OUR SOVIET COLLEAGUES HERE IN NAIROBI WASTE NO OPPORTUNITY TO DEMAND EQUAL TREATMENT ON GROUNDS ANY REAL OR IMAGINED FAVORITISM KENYANS SHOW TOWARD AMERICANS.

3. POLITICAL SENSITIVITY PROBLEM IS CURRENTLY HEIGHTENED BY CONTINUING ABSENCE FROM DUTY (DUE TO SERIOUS HEART ATTACK THREE MONTHS AGO) OF PRO-WESTERN FOREIGN MINISTRY PERMANENT SECRETARY MLAMBA. HIS ABSENCE HAS INCREASINGLY PERMITTED LEFT-LEANING ASSISTANT MINISTER NABWERA TO DOMINATE DECISION-MAKING WITHIN GOK FOREIGN MINISTRY. NABWERA WAS, FOR EXAMPLE, PRIME MOVER IN KENYA'S DECISIONS TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AND HAS BEEN MAJOR FORCE BEHIND INCREASINGLY STRIDENT GOK PUBLIC POSITIONS ON ISSUES SUCH AS THOSE RELATING TO SOUTHERN AFRICA. SINCE NABWERA GENERALLY TAKES ANTI-U.S. POSITIONS AND IS BELIEVED TO OPPOSE ANY U.S. NAVAL PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN, SUBMISSION OF REQUEST FOR MOMBASA PORT CALL DURING INDEPENDENCE HOLIDAYS COULD GIVE NABWERA (WHO IS HIGHLY ARTICULATE AND INTELLIGENT) FAVORABLE OPPORTUNITY TO ARGUE IN FAVOR OF REFUSAL ON GROUNDS VISIT WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH KENYA'S NON-ALIGNMENT. SINCE MOST AFRICAN STATES WILL BE REPRESENTED AT

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CELEBRATIONS AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL (SOME CHIEFS OF STATE), KENYANS WILL BE EVEN MORE CONSCIOUS OF THEIR NON-ALIGNED IMAGE DURING THIS PERIOD. U.S., INCIDENTALLY, WILL BE WELL AND APPROPRIATELY REPRESENTED AT CELEBRATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNDERSTANDINGS WE HAVE REACHED WITH GOK.

4. ASIDE FROM OPPOSITION TO VISIT ON POLITICAL GROUNDS, SOME OPPOSITION TO VISIT ALSO LIKELY BY PERSONNEL WITHIN

MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND KENYAN NAVY BECAUSE OF THEIR HEAVY INVOLVEMENT IN CELEBRATION WILL MAKE THEM LESS WILLING TO TAKE ON SIMULTANEOUSLY BUREAUCRATIC CHORES INVOLVED IN U.S. NAVAL VESSEL VISIT.

5. IN SUM, SINCE MOMBASA IS ONE OF RELATIVELY FEW INDIAN OCEAN PORTS REGULARLY OPEN TO CALLS BY U.S. NAVY VESSELS, I DO NOT BELIEVE WE SHOULD RISK WEARING OUT OUR WELCOME BY ATTEMPTING TO SCHEDULE CALLS AT TIMES OF EXCEPTIONAL KENYAN POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OR WHEN THERE APPEARS TO BE LIKELIHOOD OF OTHER PROBLEMS. THESE ARE ADMITTEDLY DIFFICULT ASSESSMENTS TO MAKE AND WE WOULD, THEREFORE, WELCOME VIEWS OF OTHER ADDRESSEES. NEVERTHELESS, I FEEL THAT WE IN EMBASSY NAIROBI ARE IN SOMEWHAT BETTER POSITION TO MAKE JUDGEMENTS ON THESE QUESTIONS. I WOULD THEREFORE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU TRY TO RESCHEDULE PROPOSED MOMBASA VISIT OF USS ADAMS TO MORE SUSPICIOUS DATES.
LINDSTROM

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